

Hello sir and/or Madam, I am emailing you directly because I no longer have access to submit my story and input regarding the proposed bill number 82 "in act eliminating income and asset limits for the med connect health insurance program for working persons with disabilities"

My name is Naina Rana and I'm 32 years old disabled and a wheelchair user. I was on regular Medicaid for several years until I started working for a Software company and transitioned over to Medicaid for the working disabled. I did my masters in social work and I'm currently pursuing my clinical hours in order to become a licensed clinical social worker. Due to the asset limitations under the Medicaid for the working disabled, there are many things that I would like to pursue that I cannot. As someone that will be providing mental health services for the community I can only see a limited amount of patients due to the restrictions under Medicaid for the working disabled. I can never own a business and continue to expand and serve the community because of the limitations under Medicaid for the working disabled. I am someone who works hard just like everyone else and has aspirations and dreams to be as independent as possible. One of Medicaid's goals is to allow its members independence and to be able to take care of themselves whenever possible. Part of that is making sure that we can do the things that our able-bodied brothers and sisters can. If we are doing our part by contributing to the best of our ability to society and our community members, then allowing to expand Medicaid coverage for working persons with disabilities is eminently crucial. As someone who is a mental health therapist, I can understand the frustrations that my disabled brothers and sisters have in the fear of losing their coverage when they work so hard every day. All of us have different health issues, but we all have the same dream and that is to be treated equally and fairly like everyone else. That starts with expanding Medicaid coverage so that we don't have the fear of losing it when we are just working every day like everyone else. The stress, anxiety, the depression Takes a heavy toll on us. It does not make sense for many of us that the asset limitation of \$10,000, one car, one house, and \$75,000 a year. It may seem like \$75,000 a year I can buy my own insurance, however many insurance companies do not cover all the Health leads and durable equipment that I need. Which is why I have no other choice but to be on Medicaid for the working disabled. I urge you to look at this issue from the lens of someone with a disability. Think of a disabled person who works every day at a 9 to 5 job working the same amount and sometimes more as their able-bodied colleague. Their able-bodied colleague talks about saving up money to buy a home, go on vacation, open a business. Unfortunately, as a disabled person on Medicaid for the working disabled we are not allowed to have those dreams. And, honestly that is a terrible outlook to have, and for many people with disabilities they feel unmotivated to even work.

Please reach out to me, so I can convey my story even more.

Thank you for your time,

Nalna (she/her)

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